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East Germany

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REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from the Schweinrich Training Area

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 11 May to 5 June 1953

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 6 July 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

1. At about 6 p.m. on 25 May 1953, four T-43 tanks and about 150 troops at rest were seen between the northwest shore of Dranse Lake and the railroad line in the Schweinrich training area. In the evening, the soldiers were resting between the brushwood, covered by blankets or tarpaulins. At about 9 a.m. on 26 May, about 15 tanks followed by three waves totaling about 150 infantrymen were seen south of the railroad line in a concentric attack toward Walkmühle, coming from the west, south and east. Immediately before the railroad line, the troops withdrew. No soldiers simulating enemy troops were seen. Source believed that all tanks observed were T-43 tanks. After completion of the exercise, four tanks left toward Griebsee, five tanks toward the Muckendorf firing range and the others toward west, proceeding into the woods. [redacted] The Muckendorf firing range was bordered by the railroad line and the roads, meeting at Point No 90. At about 10 a.m. on 26 May, 5 T-43 tanks were seen driving at the firing range, followed in a distance of 15 to 40 meters, by a total of about 50 troops organized in three lines and carrying fixed bayonets. At least 10 tanks, which were well camouflaged, were dug in around the firing range. [redacted] not able to determine the occurrence of 25X1 strength of the training area. The troops stationed there were those who arrived in mid-April. In the preceding years, individual firing with live ammunition had been observed between Points Nos 88 and 87.2 not earlier than about 14 days after the arrival of the troops and frequent firing after about a month, whereas this year marksmanship training with rifles and machine guns started immediately after the arrival of troops. On 26 May, trucks [redacted] towing 120-mm mortars were seen en route from Dranse toward Schweinrich. On 11 May, 9 boxcarloads of ration supplies and 2 railroad carloads of cement were unloaded at the Dranse railroad station. Trucks [redacted] were observed during the unloading. On 25 May, 9 boxcarloads of ration supplies were unloaded and hauled toward Schweinrich on trucks [redacted]. On 25 May, two railroad carloads of herrings were unloaded and hauled toward Schweinrich on trucks [redacted].
2. On 26 May, an entrenching exercise was held north of Frankendorf. The exercise involved about 2 companies which were shipped there by six trucks in three runs. At dusk, the troops were hauled away, leaving toward Neuruppin. [redacted] Between 16 and 29 May, no exercises were held in the east section of the Schweinrich troop training grounds. An informant stated that the training grounds would be enlarged. Russian details were employed in cutting the

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woods north of Schweinrich. The one-story temporary buildings in the northeast section of the training area were more heavily guarded after 15 May, with sentries standing at distances of about 100 meters and double sentries posted at the roads leading to the cantonment buildings. New cantonment buildings were under construction. Otherwise, it was quiet. Ambulance and truck [ ] were seen coming from the direction of the cantonment buildings.

2. Between 25 May and 5 June, [ ] no change in the occupation of the Schweinrich troop training grounds. Increased training activity was observed during the first days of June. Firing of carbines and machine guns was heard almost continuously. On several days, firing of mortars and artillery was heard. [ ] Prior to 5 June, no training activity was observed at the tank and engineer training sites. Noises of tanks were heard in the camp. Three T-34/85 tanks with covered members, armored scout car [ ] and motor vehicles [ ] were seen en route to the training area:

4. An interpreter stated that Colonel Ananiyev (fnu) was, at present, on leave in the USSR and that his deputy was Major Zorokin (fnu).

[ ] Comment. The Schweinrich troop training grounds is occupied as previously by the 18th Mscz Div, the units of which started intensive training activity in mid-May, after a comparatively quiet period prior to that date. [ ]

[ ] The Muckendorf firing range is located at the northern border of the training grounds between Dranse and Buschhof. Almost all of the vehicles observed in the training area belong to the abovementioned division. The antreaching exercise, which involved units of the 12th Gds Tank Div, was also reported by another source from Neuruppin. Colonel Ananiyev (fnu) is the known chief-of-staff of the division and Major Zorokin (fnu) is also known as belonging to the division and stationed in Perleberg.

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